

## Pioneering computer scan bid to help stroke victims

A NEW computer programme developed by scientists at the universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh will help stroke sufferers.

The programme can assess whole brain deterioration and help predict brain function after stroke up to 10 times more accurately than current methods.

It works to turn the more than a million bits of information stored in brain scans into a single measure, the "brain health index".

The brain health index may also give early warning of risk of future cognitive decline in individuals before they notice any symptoms.

There are currently limited treatments to prevent or delay declining cognition or dementia due to vascular disease, but if risk is identified early, then development of these diseases might be slowed with lifestyle adjustments and treatments for risk factors like blood pressure.

Dr David Alexander Dickie, from

Glasgow University's Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, said: "We recognised a need for a more inclusive approach to assessing common brain disorders of ageing.

"Our new method allows us to use every piece of information from a brain scan, rather than just individual features of the brain that can only tell us so much about a person's risk for cognitive problems."

The joint project was funded by the Stroke Association in the UK.



**Dr David Alexander Dickie**

